Praying in Secret
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-2)
Sunday June 11, 2023

JESUS PRAYED A LOT IN SECRET

The Lord Jesus regularly practiced praying in secret, in quietness, in solitude, before the Father.

Just before He began His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus spent forty days in the Wilderness praying and being alone with the Father.

The Gospels record numerous occasions when Jesus went away to be alone with the Father in prayer.

He would rise early in the mornings to go and pray.

Mark 1:35
Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

HE SENT THE CROWDS AWAY

When ministry was expanding and great multitudes kept coming to hear Him, be healed, delivered, and receive miracles, Jesus would often send the crowds away and withdraw to be by Himself to pray.

Matthew 14:23
And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 6:46
And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

Luke 5:15-16
15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.
16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

When people wanted to forcibly make Him king, He withdrew to be alone with the Father.

John 6:15
Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

How do we handle people or responsibilities that crowd into our time? How do we handle when we experience success, increase or even 'celebrity status' in what we do? We observe Jesus choosing to withdraw and be alone with the Father in secret in prayer.

HE KNEW AND TAUGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN SECRET

Matthew 6:6
But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

The Lord Jesus taught us the importance of being alone with the Father in secret, in prayer.

One important motivation is that the Father who observes us in secret will reward us openly.

The Father is a Rewarder of those who seek Him diligently (Hebrews 11:6).

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HE SPENT TIME ALONE IN PRAYER?

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?
If we can understand why He did this, we can be motivated to do so too.

Here are some observations:

#1, INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER

Jesus was always "in the bosom of the Father" (John 1:18).

John 1:18 (AMPC)

No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

To be in the bosom of the Father means to be in the intimate presence of the Father. There was love in the Trinity through eternity past (John 17:24). The Father, the Spirit and the Eternal Word were in perfect agreement, in unison, were one (1 John 5:7).

Now the Eternal Word had stepped into a fallen sinful world, clothed with humanity.

We infer that Jesus spending time alone in secret in prayer served to help fulfill what He had enjoyed before: being in the bosom of the Father, the intimate presence of the Father, experiencing and expressing love in the Trinity, being in unison with the Father and the Spirit.

We now understand how the Lord Jesus could say "I and my Father are One", even when He walked here on earth in humanity.

John 10:30
I and My Father are one.

There was intimacy, love, and union that Jesus walked in through being in the secret place with the Father. And out of this came the revelation of the Father to those around. "….*He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].*" (John 1:18).

We reveal Him to others, to the extent we have received revelation of Him.

No wonder the Lord Jesus, after His resurrection and ascension was so stern in His rebuke to the Ephesian church. While He commended them for many things, He told them that they had left their first love (Revelation 2:1-5). Our first love is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30-31). Being with the Father in secret will ensure that we are in this place of maintain and keeping our first love. Everything else flows from this.

Revelation 2:4-5
4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

#2, INSTRUCTION FROM THE FATHER

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?
It was in this place of secret prayer, that He was taught by the Father. He was schooled, taught, instructed and trained by the Father.

John 8:26
"...I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

John 8:28
"...I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."

He spent the entire night in prayer, before appointing His Twelve apostles (Luke 6:12).

Matthew 10:27
Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

The Lord Jesus taught us that as His followers we too can receive the secrets and mysteries of the Father. The Holy Spirit will teach and reveal these to us.
John 16:12-15
12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Hence, for us, spending time in secret prayer positions helps us receive the mysteries of God. God has given us the ability to pray in tongues and pray the mysteries of God.

#3, INSIGHT INTO THE FATHER'S WORKS

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?

It was in this place of secret prayer, that He learnt how to see what the Father was doing, so He could then pursue those works and speak those words.

John 5:19-20
19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.
20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

John 8:38
I speak what I have seen with My Father,...."

What should you do in life? What are the things you are to pursue in life?
What should you do in a given situation in life?
How do we receive answers to these important questions?
In the secret place alone with the Father in prayer.

#4, INDICATION ON GOD'S TIMINGS FOR KEY MOMENTS FOR HIS LIFE

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?
This was a place where He understood the Father's timing for His life, work and ministry.

It is amazing as follow Jesus through the Gospels how sensitive He was to the Father's timing for specific events in His life.

Matthew 26:18
And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples." ' "

John 2:4
Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

John 7:6,8
6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

John 7:30

Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

John 8:20
These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

John 12:23
But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

John 13:1
Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 16:32
Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

John 17:1
Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

#5, IMBUED WITH STRENGTH TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?
This was a place where He received strength to complete His life, work, and ministry.

We know that as we wait upon the Lord, our strength is renewed. And it was through His waiting upon the Father, He received strength. In His greatest moment of need, in His hour of trial, Jesus did just one thing – go to the Father in prayer.

There were occasions when He went with three of His closest disciples, Peter, John, and James to the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28).

#6, INSPIRATION TO HIS DISCIPLES

Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer?

He set an example for His disciples and for us.
His disciples wanted to follow His prayer life.

His personal prayer life was so strong, it prompted His closest disciples to come to Him requesting "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus said *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master."* (Matthew 10:24-25).

As His disciples there are no short-cuts. If the Master prayed, then the disciples will have to pray in a similar manner.
Pray like Jesus
Learn to be alone with the Father in secret.
Follow Jesus in prayer. Pray a lot in secret.

Summary
#1, INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER
#2, INSTRUCTION FROM THE FATHER
#3, INSIGHT INTO THE FATHER'S WORKS
#4, INDICATION ON GOD'S TIMINGS FOR KEY MOMENTS FOR HIS LIFE
#5, IMBUED WITH STRENGTH TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL
#6, INSPIRATION TO HIS DISCIPLES

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME
Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Praying in Secret
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-2)
Sunday June 11, 2023

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:6*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Review the six motivations/outcomes of Jesus spending time in secret with the Father, in prayer (listed below). Discuss how these can be a motivation for us to spend time in secret, along with the Father in prayer.

#1, intimacy with the Father
#2, instruction from the Father
#3, insight into the Father's works

#4, indication on God's timings for key moments for His life
#5, imbued with strength to do the Father's will
#6, inspiration to His disciples

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

Prayer is an opportunity for us to partner with God to see His Kingdom come and His will be established here on earth. In this sermon series "Following Jesus in Prayer", we examine the life, the practices, and teachings of Jesus in 8 important aspects of prayer: 1) Praying in secret, 2) A pattern for personal prayer, 3) Believing prayer, 4) Persistent prayer, 5) Prayer of submission and surrender, 6) Intercessory prayer, 7) Jesus' teaching on prayer, 8) His present ministry – our great High Priest. Expect your prayer life to be enriched and strengthened as we learn to develop our prayer lives based on prayer life of Jesus Himself.

In Part-2 of this sermon series, we learn about "Praying in Secret". The Lord Jesus regularly practiced praying in secret, in quietness, in solitude, before the Father. Why did Jesus spend time alone in secret prayer? If we can understand why He did this, we can be motivated to do so too. We explore six reasons/outcomes of the Lord Jesus praying in secret. May these motivate and inspire us to spend much time in praying in secret.

KEYWORDS

prayer, intercession, intercessory prayer, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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